

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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First Plover Nest Ever Recorded Discovered at Roosevelt Beach

HALF MOON BAY -- For the first time since records have been kept a pair of western snowy plovers has set up a nest at Roosevelt Beach in Half Moon Bay, California State Parks officials announced today.

California State Parks has undertaken an extensive monitoring and public education program to assist in the recovery of this threatened species. Beginning last year, for the first time, dogs were prohibited on the beach at Half Moon Bay State Beach. State Parks is also installing animal-proof garbage cans at the beach to discourage predator populations from growing unnaturally.

The new nest, which has three eggs and is being attended to diligently by both parents, is approximately 2 miles north of the traditional snowy plover nesting area at Francis Beach. The new nest is also located outside of the area designated by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service as habitat for the threatened species. While both beaches are part of Half Moon Bay State Beach, the Roosevelt Beach nest is significant because no nest has ever been recorded there by either California State Parks or the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, which has monitored the area for plovers since the early 1980s.

These tiny shorebirds are part of a population of less than 1,800 snowy plovers remaining that nest in California. The population of snowy plovers has been threatened by human intrusion into nesting areas, loss of habitat, and predators.

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